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Checklist of Pennsylvania History Magazines

by

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CHECKLIST OF PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY MAGAZINES

Compiled by Norman B. Wilkinson

PENNSYLVANIA is taking a leaf out of its neighbor's magazine, *New York History;* precisely, a page from its April 1950 issue, where James T. Dunn has provided readers with a list of the periodicals devoted exclusively to the Empire State's past. In the belief that our readers would like similar information, a checklist of Pennsylvania's historical magazines with brief annotations, has been compiled and is offered herewith.

By our tally, which is subject to correction, there are nineteen periodicals issued serially devoted to the history of this commonwealth. Four are state or regional in coverage, two are concerned solely with Pennsylvania German culture, one is for young people, and the remainder are the publications of county and local historical societies. The date of the first issue is given in brackets immediately after the title. Magazines that appear only occasionally are not included in the current listing.

There are also several magazines published in Pennsylvania by religious, cultural and nationality groups dealing with the history of their respective organizations over a wider area than this State. To mention but a few would be to name the *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia,* the *Bulletin of the Friends' Historical Association,* and the *American-German Review.* These and other excellent periodicals frequently contain articles bearing on Pennsylvania, but the present checklist is limited to publications that altogether confine their interest to this state, hence those mentioned above and others of similar nature have been omitted.

To the best of our knowledge contributors to all of the magazines listed receive no payment for manuscripts accepted by editors. Fairly complete files of a number of them are to be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; the Free Library of Philadelphia; the Pennsylvania Room of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh; the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg;

and the library of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.

Historical Review of Berks County (October 1934).

Editor: Donald Radcliffe Shenton, Historical Society of Berks County, 940 Centre Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania.

A sprightly, well illustrated county society publication that covers the past of Berks County, contemporary matters that allow for historical comparisons, and state and national themes when of special relevance to the county. Presentation is designed to interest city and rural dwellers, school and college students, and, with dignity and authenticity, to popularize local history. Each quarterly issue contains several book reviews. Subscription is $2.00 a year, 50c per issue. One complete unbound set, and scattered numbers of early volumes are available. Volumes 6 through 14 are indexed.

Germantowne Crier (1949).

Editorial Committee: Germantown Historical Society, 5214 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Publisher: Joseph A. McGuckin, 2017 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Among local historical publications the *Germantowne Crier* is the most recent arrival. The homes, families, schools, industries, and social life of one of the oldest communities of Philadelphia have been the subjects of its early issues. Its illustrations and art work are of excellent quality and reproduce well on the high quality paper used. Outstanding authorities on Philadelphia's past, educators, and an occasional student have made contributions to this attractive new publication. It is published quarterly at a subscription price of $1.00, annually. Some back numbers are available but too few numbers have appeared to warrant indexing.

The Junior Historian (1943).

Editorial Office: Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, Education Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

An informal, extracurricular activity in many of the state's secondary schools are junior historian clubs. These are organized into the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians, the sponsor of *The Junior Historian.* Its contributors are club members who offer short essays dealing with some aspect of their community's past or contemporary life. Each issue contains fifteen to twenty articles on diverse topics such as mining, ghost towns, church history, inventions, industrial history, early schools, town sketches, and brief biographies. Occasionally a history quiz is inserted. It is not illustrated. Junior historians receive two copies of the magazine

each year, the cost of which is included in their club dues of $1.00 annually. The only back numbers available are those for December 1948 and November 1949.

Lancaster County Historical Society Papers (June 1896).

Editor: M. Luther Heisey, 237 North Lime Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This is one of the older periodicals that has been issued consistently over many years. Its scope covers a wide range of subjects bearing upon history of Lancaster, city and county. Illustrated. Currently the society puts out five to eight copies a year which are sent free to members; for others it is 50c a copy. Back numbers of volumes 21 to 54 are available, but earlier issues are rare. A subject index of volumes 1 to 43 has been printed and can be purchased for $1.00.

Lebanon County Historical Society Publications (1898).

Editor: Ralph S. Shay, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.

Members of the society receive this annual free of charge; to others the cost is $1.00. The articles comprise quite a miscellany but in recent issues emphasis has been upon economic history of the city of Lebanon and surrounding area. Some numbers carry illustrations. Nearly all back numbers are available and volumes 1 to 8 have been indexed.

Lehigh County Historical Society Proceedings (1908).

Editor: Melville J. Boyer, 2933 Liberty Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

An annual bound in cloth that contains papers earlier presented at the society's meetings. These deal with local history, folklore, Indian artifacts, genealogy and museum accessions. Lehigh County is part of the Pennsylvania German area, hence many aspects of this culture receive attention. Illustrations are excellently done on high quality paper. The proceedings are free to members, and the price to others varies between $3.00 and $5.00, depending upon the size of the volume. About eighty per cent of the earlier issues are available and a complete index of the series appears in the volume for 1949.

Montgomery County Historical Society Bulletin (1895).

Editor: Charles R. Barker, 43 E. Stratford Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

During the first thirty years of its appearance the publication was known as the *Sketches*. Since 1936 the *Bulletin* has been pub-

lished semi-annually, in April and October, at a subscription price of $2.00 yearly. Contents cover topics of local import and genealogy; most of the articles are papers that have been presented at the society's meetings. Back numbers have been bound in five-year periods, all of which except the very early ones are obtainable. Each volume is indexed. Illustrations are usually limited to the frontispiece.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS (1929).

Editor: Charles F. Snyder, 1019 Susquehanna Avenue, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

All of central Pennsylvania that one time was known as Northumberland County is the area of interest. A typical number has illustrated articles on Indian affairs, frontier life, early transportation, land grants, and biographical sketches of prominent figures of the region. The proceedings are carefully edited and issued annually to society members under membership dues; to others the price is $3.00 a copy. An index of the first ten volumes is printed in volume ten, and all volumes except number five are available for purchase.

NOW AND THEN (1868).

Associate Editor: Marshall R. Anspach, Esq., 120 West 4th Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

For many years *Now and Then* was a two-man enterprise, the hobby of J. M. M. Gernerd and Dr. T. Kenneth Wood of Williamsport. Later it became identified with the Muncy Historical Society, Dr. Wood continuing as editor and principal contributor. Recent issues carry articles by other writers, usually addresses presented at society meetings. North central Pennsylvania, particularly Lycoming County and Muncy Valley is the locale receiving major attention. Society reports and comment and family histories are regular features of the magazine. It is profusely illustrated and printed on coated stock paper. Subscription rate is $2.00 for the four numbers issued during the year. Earlier numbers have been bound into volumes most of which are available for purchase. Each volume contains an index. Complete files are kept at the Muncy Historical Society, Muncy, Pa., and by Dr. Wood, 1200 Campbell Street, Williamsport, Pa.

OLD YORK ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN (1937).

Editor: Arthur H. Jenkins, 300 Mather Road, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

This is an annual publication devoted to recounting the history of incidents, personalities and places associated with the Old York

Road, historic highway running north out of Philadelphia. Emphasis is upon the Revolutionary War era. Illustrated occasionally with line drawings, maps, wood cuts, and photographs. Subscription price is $2.00 and all back numbers except those of 1937 and 1947 are obtainable. No indexes have been prepared.

Pennsylvania Archaeologist (1930).

Editor: James Van Stone, Box 14, Bennett Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Aboriginal life, descriptions of archaeological excavations and finds, and early relations of white man and Indian constitute the range of interests. Editorial policy has aimed at pleasing both the amateur archaeologist and the specialist, hence the level of excellence is very irregular. Illustrations are numerous. *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* appears quarterly; the annual subscription price is $3.00. Back numbers for the past five years are generally available but earlier issues are scattered. No indexes have been prepared.

The Pennsylvania Dutchman (1949).

Editors: Alfred L. Shoemaker, Donald H. Yoder, J. William Frey; Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

As its name indicates this newcomer among Pennsylvania publications is devoted exclusively to disseminating information about and stimulating interest in one of the state's distinctive nationality and cultural groups. Using newspaper size and format, customarily eight pages, its articles, some in the dialect and some in English, deal with folklore, farming, social customs, art and design, religion, genealogy, music, and literature. In effect, an attempt is made to present all aspects of Pennsylvania German life and culture. The *Pennsylvania Dutchman* is now a semi-monthly publication, except for July and August when monthly numbers appear. Subscription rate is $3.00 annually, single copies 15c. Some back issues are available but no indexes have been prepared.

Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings (1891).

Editorial Office: Administrative Committee, Pennsylvania German Society, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

An annual that contains lengthy articles on the history, social conditions, folk lore, folk art, and poetry and literature of the Pennsylvania Germans. Articles are customarily by specialists and authorities in their fields and sometimes are illustrated. Subscription is included in the Society's membership dues of $5.00 a year. Approximately seventy-five per cent of the back issues can be obtained and a descriptive list of publications, volumes 1 to 48 is available. Volumes are indexed.

Pennsylvania History (1934).

*Editor: Milton W. Hamilton, Albright College, Reading, Pa.

The quarterly journal of the Pennsylvania Historical Association is published for teachers, local historical societies, and others within or closely associated with the historical profession. Recognized as the organ of state history, its range of articles is very flexible and of high quality. Each issue carries several articles, a number of book reviews, a section on state-wide activities in history, and intermittently a bibliographical listing. Illustrations usually are confined to the frontispiece. Subscription is part of the Association's annual membership dues of $3.00. For institutions the price is $3.50. Most back numbers can be secured, and each volume has an index, printed separately.

Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (1877).

Editor: R. N. Williams, 2nd, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Since its initial number published seventy-three years ago, the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* has enjoyed recognition as one of the nation's leading scholarly magazines. Philadelphia and its environs were the focus of attention in its earlier numbers but its breadth of interest has steadily expanded so that emphasis is now upon the history of Pennsylvania and the Middle Atlantic states. From the society's great store of historical source materials many items are now made available by being printed in the magazine. The proceedings of a symposium of historians and teachers concerned with more effective writing and teaching of history have been featured in recent numbers. Articles frequently are illustrated. PMHB appears quarterly at an annual subscription of $3.75. With few exceptions most back numbers are available. A cumulative index of the entire series is in preparation and should be available within the next year.

The Picket Post, A Record of Patriotism (c. 1919).

Editor: Gilbert S. Jones, Valley Forge Historical Society, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Picket Post, successor to *The Valley Forge Record,* is dedicated to memorializing the courage and endurance of Washington's ragged forces who wintered in the Valley, 1777-1778. Its brief articles concentrate on this phrase of the Revolution but related events of sequence or proximity are not overlooked. Excerpts of famous documents and speeches, and reprints of historical items from various sources appear. A recent innovation is a section on

*A new editor is to be appointed this year. Communications may be sent to Dr. Philip S. Klein, Sec'y, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

book news. Each number has a distinctive artistic cover and articles occasionally are illustrated. Subscription is $1.50 a year, 50c a single copy. Most back numbers can be obtained, but no index has been prepared.

Schuylkill County Historical Society Publications (c. 1905).

Editor: Herrwood E. Hobbs, Pottsville Journal, Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Articles in this society annual touch on a great variety of events in the life of the anthracite community. Emphasis is upon the earlier history of the county. The magazine is not illustrated. The price for a copy of the annual is $1.00. Nearly all previous issues are available, but are not indexed.

Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin (c. 1930).

Editor: George F. Dunkelberger, Snyder County Historical Society, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

The Snyder County Society has made a practice of printing the papers offered at its meetings of the preceding year. These are very diverse in nature, discussing the history of agriculture, transportation, utilities, churches, and at times family histories and biographies. Since the county is bordered by the Susquehanna River, the influence of this waterway receives due attention. The magazine is not illustrated. Designed for members only, no public subscription price has been determined, but copies of a number of back issues can be obtained by writing to the editor. No indexes are available.

Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine (1918).

Editor: F. F. Holbrook, Historical Building, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The history of the trans-montane region of the Keystone State, the last frontier, and the gateway to the west, comprise the themes of this publication. Pittsburgh and the Ohio Valley area are the zones of concentration. Accounts of leading industries—steel, oil, coal, glass, aluminum—and of the men who were responsible for them, appear frequently. Documents from the society's collections are printed with annotations, and there are sections devoted to book reviews and the society's activities. Illustrations are sparingly used. Between 1918 and 1941 the magazine appeared quarterly, and semi-annually from 1942 to 1949. In 1950 or 1951, it is anticipated to go back on a quarterly basis. Subscription price to schools and libraries is $2.00 annually, to individuals, $3.00. Most back numbers can be obtained and indexes for all volumes, to number 27 (1944), are available.